



As you look at that list to the right, what areas of life come to mind in which men of God ought to “excel” or “abound”?

When you think of *mediocrity*, what comes to your mind? (**Mal 1:6-14**)

“When faith is strong our invisible God looms large, but as faith weakens we tend to become less aware of Him. In our increasingly faithless society, believers need constant reminders that our goal in worship and work is to do the will of God for the glory of God... The best service we can render to our transcendent God is flawed enough without the casual approach that is becoming all too common.” (Sewell Hall, *Do Things Well: The Pursuit of Excellence*)

Men of God excel in what they do and who they are, so what is it going to take? What’s our motivation? What impact can we have for the glory of God and the good of others?

As for the saints in the land, they are the excellent ones... (**Psa 16:3**)

Praise him according to his excellent greatness! (**Psa 150:2**)

[The LORD of hosts] is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom. (**Isa 28:29**)

But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way. (**1 Cor 12:31**)

...strive to excel in building up the church. (**1 Cor 14:12**)

As you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. (**2 Cor 8:7**)

It is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent... (**Phil 1:9-10**)

...if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. (**Phil 4:8**)

...as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more. (**1 Thes 4:1**)

...so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people. (**Titus 3:8**)

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness... (**1 Pet 2:9**)

...him who called us to his own glory and excellence... (**2 Pet 1:3**)